

Rep. Slaughter Announces Passage of Badge and Uniform Security and Trustworthiness Act

Act Makes Posing as an Officer a Federal Crime in Response to Tragic Webster Shooting

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, was today joined by Chief Gerald Pickering of the Town of Webster Police Department and representatives of the Xerox Corporation to announce the passage of the Congresswoman's Badge and Uniform Security and Trustworthiness (BUST) Act.

The bill was passed by Congress in December of 2005, and was signed into law by President Bush this past January.

"People trust police and federal officers to keep them safe. We have to deny criminals the ability to abuse that trust," Rep. Slaughter said. **"It is my hope that out of this tragedy has come a law that will prevent this kind of terrible crime from ever claiming another victim or affecting another community."**

Rep. Slaughter authored the BUST Act in response to two tragic August, 2003 shootings in Webster's Xerox Federal Credit Union. The crimes were committed by an individual posing as an FBI agent.

The Act makes it a federal crime to use the uniform or insignia of any public employee (federal, state, or local) in a misleading or deceptive way. The articles can still be used for theatrical or law enforcement purposes. Current sentencing guidelines for violators call for imprisonment for up to 6 months and/or the imposition of a fine.

BACKGROUND

In August of 2003, a man posing as an FBI agent and brandishing a fake U.S. Marshal badge tried to rob the Xerox Federal Credit Union at the Xerox campus in Webster. The man entered the credit union around 9:30 a.m., demanded money, and shot and killed a Xerox worker who was waiting to be served. A second customer was shot in the shoulder before the robber fled the scene. Both victims were identified as Xerox employees: the slain employee was Raymond Batzel, a machine operator who lived in Livingston County, and the wounded one was Joseph Doud, a software development design engineer.

A surveillance tape showed the robber carrying a sawed-off shotgun and handgun, and wearing a wig and a blue FBI jacket over a bulletproof vest. The robber also had a silver badge not unlike those used by U.S. Marshals. At the time, Webster Police Chief Pickering was quoted saying, "It looks like the guy was trying to look like a law enforcement agent coming into the bank, and I'm sure that all played into the part of the robbery attempt. It's very troubling."

Between August 2003 and December 2003, the police followed up on 600 leads without any arrest. The effort is today being led by the Town of Webster Police, although other law enforcement agencies such as the FBI and the New York State Police have been involved in the investigation. By December 2003, with no suspects identified, police arranged for the popular show, "*America's Most Wanted*" to air a segment on the robbery. Despite the 773 extra leads generated by the show and a billboard campaign offering a \$75,000 reward, the perpetrator remains at large.